

28 OCT 1966

The Honorable Robert S. McNamara  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob,

I have looked over the material forwarded on 14 October as an example of the kind of reporting we need but are not getting from Vietnam. I agree that reporting of this type is useful in communicating the feel of the war as an important supplement to the more formal reporting. In an attempt to get a flow started along these lines, a message has been sent to John Hart proposing that he select qualified officers who are about to depart the Station and have them set aside several days to draw together their impressions in an informal style. Another thought we passed along to him is that senior officers of the Station might prepare trip reports, also in an informal style, on their return to Saigon.

I am hopeful that this effort will produce some useful results and will pass along the production to you if it appears of sufficient interest.

With respect to the substance of the attached reports, I am sure you have noted that some of these comments and recommendations have been reflected in the recent "Roles and Missions Study" sent in from the Saigon Mission. Many of these I believe have considerable merit, and I hope that this Study will generate some changes along the lines it recommends.

Cordially,

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms

Attachment

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16 Oct 66  
Date

C/ [redacted] (27 Oct 66)

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

Executive Registry

66-4423

6-45-80

14 October 1966

Honorable Richard Helms  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dick:

When you have time, I believe you will find these interesting. After you glance through them, may we discuss how to obtain information such as this on a recurring basis.

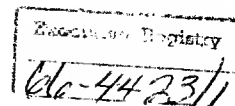
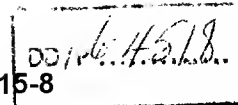
Sincerely,



Robert S. McNamara

6 Encls.

CONFIDENTIAL



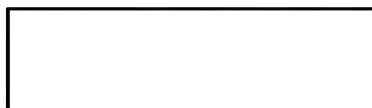
26 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Proposed Letter to the Secretary of Defense

Per our conversation on 14 October, attached is a proposed reply to Secretary of Defense McNamara.



William E. Colby  
Chief, Far East Division

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Attachment

cc: DDCI

GCIS  
14 OCT 1966  
15 OCT 1966

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SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP			
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	Chief, FE		C
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	ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
Per your conversation with Mr. Helms yesterday.			
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER			
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.			DATE
Office of the Director			15/10/66

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